Equal Rights

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FIVE CENTS

SATURDAY
JULY 21, 1934

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PERIODICAL DIVISION

Congressional Committee Plans Campaign

An intensive summer campaign in behalf of the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment and the adoption of the Equal Rights Treaty was launched recently at a meeting of the Congressional Committee of the National Woman's Party at Alva Belmont House in Washington.

Reading from left to right are: Helen Hunt West, Florida; Anne Carter, Texas; Helena Hill Weed, Connecticut; Anita Pollitzer, South Carolina; Faith Binkley, Florida; Maud Younger, California; Mary Mortensen, Wisconsin; Helen Haines, North Carolina; Mrs. Robert Adamson, New Jersey; Eunice Dyson, Virginia; Alice Paul, New Jersey; Laura Berrien, Georgia; Anna Milburn, Washington (State); and Anne Clement Rotter, Wisconsin.

Equal Rights

OFFICIAL ORGAN
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Capitol Hill,
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Phone, Vernon 3279

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Emilie A. Doetsch . . . Managing Editor
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OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

The object of this organization shall be to secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

[Senate Joint Resolution Number 1]
[House Joint Resolution Number 1]

Introduced in the Senate March 10, 1933, by Senator John G. Townsend, Delaware.

Introduced in the House March 9, 1933, by Representative Louis Ludlow, Indiana.

Madame Curie

OF the many tributes paid to this great woman none was finer than that of one of her close collaborators, Professor Jean Perrin. "It is a great human figure which has disappeared," he said, as if unwilling, in recognizing her supreme scientific achievements, to have us lose sight of her splendid humanity.

Madame Curie's unselfish, patient labors, her lonely vigils in the laboratory, her magnificent heroism in the presence of constant danger, had that transcendant quality which distinguishes great from lesser souls. Nevertheless, like Professor Perrin, we rejoice in her humanity. It is a matter of deepest congratulation to all women that her work has evoked from the scientific world an acknowledgment that pre-eminent achievement is attainable by both men and women, and that greatness is an attribute not dependent on sex.

Throughout the ages multitudes of those who suffer will have cause to bless her. But women will owe her a much greater debt of gratitude in that her life and work are an unanswerable refutation of the calumny that women are an inferior or weaker sex. In an age when efforts are being made to force women back into medieval obscurity and ineffectiveness, the life and career and sacrificial death of Madame Curie give all women cause to hope.

Wives and the Family Income

UNDER the title "Brickbats and Bouquets" a reader takes us to task for insisting on the right of married women to work outside the home, suggesting that we had better concentrate our energies on an effort to have husbands divide the contents of their pay envelopes equally with their wives.

We agree absolutely that a wife who stays at home and devotes herself to her husband and children is entitled in her own right to half the family income. At the same time, we believe that the attitude that denies to wives the freedom to choose whether to work within or outside the home, a right freely exercised by husbands, is one of the reasons why so many wives must struggle on degradedly on doles and pittances instead of being regarded as equal co-owners with their husbands of the family earnings.

The work of the average wife and mother is, to say the least, as important as that of the average husband and father, and it is as true today as it was nineteen hundred years ago that "the laborer is worthy of his hire," whether man or woman. To exact toil without recompense is to debase workers into slaves. The wife who is so served is humiliated in her own eyes as well as in the eyes of her husband and children.

But as long as we have laws and customs that dictate to women in matters where men's freedom of choice remains unrestricted, we shall continue to have women underpaid within as well as outside the home. Cooks are often paid more than wives because cooks can dictate their own terms. But even the unmarried woman who is struggling to earn a living must be satisfied with less than her masculine competitors because of the sense of proprietorship that men have in women, growing out of the assumption that the girl who works is merely marking time until she marries.

We do not say that it is better or worse for a married woman to stay at home and devote herself exclusively to looking after her husband and children. Little children do need their mothers and no doubt in most cases a mother's care is better than that of a servant. But this is not invariably the rule. Some women are better fitted for business than domestic life, and in such cases the family is better off if the wife earns the added income needed to employ good servants. Often it is a question of very limited educational opportunities for the children—if the mother remains at home and the father's earnings alone must suffice—or of augmenting his income by the wife's earnings. When the children are old enough to go to school, mothers are often confronted with idle, empty hours. Self-respect in such cases dictates that they go out and justify their existence.

Each case, in other words, must be decided on its merits, by the individuals themselves, wives as well as husbands, in the light of circumstances and their own consciences. The woman conscious of her ability to earn her own living will not be content to be less than an equal partner in the marriage contract; the husband of this self-respecting woman will not presume to offer her less. Give the married woman a chance to chart her career as independently as a man and the vexed problem of the division of the family income will settle itself.

Doris Stevens Addresses Institute of Public Affairs

DORIS STEVENS, Chairman of the Inter American Commission of Women, was guest speaker on the night of July 5 in the McIntire Amphitheatre at one of the open meetings of the Institute of Public Affairs, held at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Va. In introducing Miss Stevens, Dr. Charles Gilmore Mathis, Director of the Institute, referred to her as "the David who slew Goliath at Montevideo." Dr. Orestes Ferrara of Cuba was the other speaker.

Miss Stevens also addressed a session of the Latin American round-table on the "Good Neighbor Policy with Latin America" on the afternoon of July 7. Dr. Dana G. Munro, Professor of History at Princeton University, formerly of the State Department and Minister to Haiti, was Chairman of this round-table for the week. The other speakers at this session, who also discussed the achievements of the Montevideo Conference, were Benjamin Muse, Counsellor to the United States Delegation at Montevideo, and Dr. Samuel Guy Inman, Executive Secretary of the Committee on Coöperation in Latin America. Dr. Inman also attended the Conference.

In speaking of the nationality convention, Mr. Muse paid the following public tribute to Miss Stevens: "I want to say that the women of the Americas owe Miss Stevens a great debt. It was due to her tireless and able efforts more than to any other thing that this treaty was adopted by the Conference."

Miss Stevens outlined the position of women in the various American Republics when the Commission reported to the Montevideo Conference, explained what was done at Montevideo to raise that position and discussed the relation of the position of women to inter American understanding.

Below is Miss Stevens' evening address which followed an organ prelude in the open air.

The International Road to Equality for Women

MY text tonight is taken from a very sad story. In time it covers what has happened to women in the two decades since the war. Reduced to simple terms it is the lamentable fact that men regularly get into disasters, and when they do, equality for women springs ahead.

I am going to flatter you and not present any arguments for equal treatment of women. If any one needs them, he or she might better take ship for Germany and see what happens when a nation attempts systematically to degrade its women. Instead, we are going to expose to you the good and the bad events which have hastened or delayed women recently in their long wearying road toward equality.

Once upon a time there was a beautiful woman who lived, fought and died in England. Her statue now stands in Whitehall. Her name was Emmeline Pankhurst. She wanted equality for women throughout the world. Now it is true that no woman, perhaps, within our lifetime was so despised and reviled by men as she was. It so happened that she was busy about what she considered the Lord's business, when the Great War fell upon the earth. Almost over night she became a highly honored, greatly beloved public figure. Prime Ministers, refugees, diplomats sought her aid and advice. She was feted and praised.

Now why was it that men's attitude changed toward Emmeline Pankhurst who, until the war came, had been regarded as a monster? In answering this question we shall more clearly perceive why it was that all women found their prestige so greatly enhanced during wartime.

With the coming of the war, vast numbers of men found themselves in unfamiliar danger; not only men at the gun, but kings and potentates, generals and admirals. And if you could have penetrated these men's most secret thoughts, I am persuaded that you would have found a great yearning to run to mother and climb to safety in her lap.

You who knew Emmeline Pankhurst remember that she was possessed of all the qualities which we would like our mothers to possess. She was beautiful of body and beautiful of mind. She was kind and generous; she was loving. Physical and spiritual courage were strong within her and her tender face radiated security. In the peril of the Great War, men who had reviled her suddenly became reverent toward her and found reassurance in her presence. And so did all women find in war that the honor in which they were held by men was mystically enhanced for the same reason. Women were transformed into half-deities, for that is the way small children think of their mothers. Lonely little men in dark holes, killing and being killed, as well as the lone little rulers who saw their kingdoms slipping into the abyss, fell into the comforting habit of speaking as if all women were magic, goddess-like creatures protecting them in danger. Do you doubt this? You cannot have forgotten how womanhood during the war became universally noble, no matter what women did. They were noble just because they were mothers. No such universal nobility attached to men and fathers. No one ever spoke of a gold-star father.

Now it so happened that a few women, here and there, were not taken in by this exaggerated and unstable reverence which men, in their distress, were showing women. These few women knew what they wanted, took advantage—wholly unconsciously perhaps—of this emotional state among men and set about to translate into practical use men's momentary adoration of women. And so it fell out that after years of unsuccessful appeal to men's reason for the primary right to vote, women were able to get it—at least in those countries where enough women were aware or where revolution had smashed old tyrannies for all.

After the guns were silent and the war was no more, another circumstance worked to the benefit of women. In the grip of sustained hates, men had been able to murder and maim their kind, blockade the helpless and scatter destruction by poison gas. Now waves of guilt overcame the more sensitive. In revulsion against what these hates had led them to do, a greater number of men, and spread over a greater extent of the surface of the earth than ever before, thrust forth great beams of friendliness, idealism, hope and love toward all human beings groping toward equality. Because they had been on a debauch of hate, sex antagonism was at a low ebb. These men extended a friendly hand to their womenfolk, just as they did to submerged racial and religious groups. They had been bad boys and now they were less belligerent to women. Their case was that of the little boy who, on his way home from school, strikes down his school-mate whose curly hair annoys him and then goes home and is sublimely sweet to his little sister, to the bewilderment of his entire family.

This feeling of repentance was particularly strong in Germany and in Russia where men had known not only international hatreds but the intense, intimate hatreds of civil war. Now both these States had been preëminently male States with the inevitable degradation of women; and now they became conspicuously good to their women. Equality for women became their fundamental law.

When men, in their penitence, also set up elaborate international machinery, these same few women sought to take advantage of it along with the greater friendliness men were showing women. From their labors with the peace-makers came a provision in the League Covenant

that women were to administer with men the affairs of the League. To the League's loss this provision has not been lived up to. The text stands, however, as a guiding principle and bears witness to what was to be a world in which women cooperated with men.

Next, women drew from men's new machinery — and from their new sweetness — the International Labor Conference's Washington Conventions. If only women had not been lulled by this new sweetness, it might have been possible to prevent men from doing them a kindness! Women never suffer more than when men take to doing something for their good. Quite good and wise men will fervently proclaim their belief that one nation cannot know what is best for another nation; that one class cannot know what is best for another class; that one race cannot know what is best for another race; that one sect cannot know what is best for another sect. And only with the greatest difficulty can these same good and wise men be restrained from doing something which they think is best for women. The Washington conventions of 1919 contained the first important international agreements concerning women who work and they were discriminatory. It must be said in passing that before the war, governments and jurists, insofar as they thought of women in international law at all, had given their major attention internationally, to women traded in for profit. By no glimmer have they appeared to perceive that a slave trade in women could only flourish in a society which held women inferior, cheap and degraded.

BEAR with me a little longer and I will tell you of something else which next appeared to offer new hope to women in their desire to set up equality as the law of the world. One of the major ambitions of the League, and a very beautiful one, was to codify international law. This plan, begun soon after the birth of the League, creaked along, incredibly enough, for a decade, encountering the fading idealism manifest in delays and often the hostility of governments and their narrow-minded experts who fought over trivial points, blind to the high purpose for which the plan was conceived. Finally, when the experts met in conference at The Hague in 1930, the idealism and hope of the post-war emotion of international friendliness had utterly lost its vitality. Women were thrown back again into reliance upon men's reason which, you will see, is never much to rely upon.

Now at this point in 1930 it might be said that men were between two disasters. They had washed away their guilt over the war and had not yet measured the depth of the approaching economic collapse. At the time of The Hague Conference, statesmen pronounced inspirational declarations and men felt relatively secure. Hosts of women, in the most overwhelming and authentic international demonstration by women's organizations ever witnessed up to that time, converged at The Hague. The plenipotentiaries of forty-seven nations heard them appeal for equal treatment in nationality and agreed upon only one thing —that it was all right to discriminate against women in their nationality rights; these deluded women did not know what was best for them; the men knew best what was best for women. And so it came to pass that a nationality convention was entered into — the United States, to its everlasting credit, did not agree to it—in which inequality of treatment of women was the basic principle. Thus inequality became the cornerstone of the new proposed world code and by that fact the code was damned. It pains me to relate that our appeal to men's reason got us nowhere.

Now, every national and international group of women in the world which cares about the dignity and destiny of their sex had painfully to undertake to undo the good men had done them at The Hague. Their leaders moved on Geneva. Under international pressure The Council of the League set up a Women's Consultative Committee on Nationality, representing these hosts of women, to "advise" the League on women's nationality. As they had done at The Hague in 1930, so they did at Geneva in 1931, 1932 and 1933. The women advised equality. The League rejected their advice, just as The Hague Conference had done. With a weary smile they began the difficult task of opposing in each country which had signed The Hague convention, the ratification of it. Tonight, four years after it was signed, the ten ratifications necessary to bring it into effect have not been obtained. This is, at best, however, a negative result.

WE must now go back for a few moments in our story of women's international road to equality to that period of friendliness referred to earlier in my narrative. This feeling of friendliness had penetrated to South America where the position of women had been uniformly feudal. In 1923 at the Vth Pan American Conference in Santiago, without any strongly organized movement on the part of women, South American men had reflected Europe's penitence and it had taken a very practical form. They had proposed a resolution to abolish all legal inequality for women from the American continent. Governments were to prepare memoirs on the status of their women for consideration by the next Conference and women were to be plenipotentiaries in the Conference. But, as we have seen, the idealism in the Old World, so shining directly after the war, was rapidly wearing as thin in the New World as it was in the Old. And so when the VIth Conference met in Havana in 1928, the President of the United States rode into the harbor on a battleship; there were no women delegates; there were no memoirs; the subject was not even continued on the agenda; the question of equality for women in the Americas was scheduled to die of inattention.

STILL outside the temple, women took a hand. They were few in number but strong in their will to equality. South American women asked North American women to come and help rescue from death the promising idealism which had stirred their hopes so deeply. You know the result. For the first time in Pan American Conferences continental equality for women was eloquently defended by women in plenary session of the Conference. Women asked for a treaty, the first of its kind in history, guaranteeing complete civil and political equality such as the law can give. "This is a very moving idea; this is a captivating idea," the South American delegates said. The United States delegation was, to a man, bored. The idealism of 1923 was too bloodless to bring action on the treaty. Instead, a Commission of women was provided for, now known as the Inter American Commission of Women. This Commission is composed of one woman from each Republic, appointed by governments. During the five years between Havana and Montevideo, it was engaged upon the gloomy task of studying the rights of women as compared with the rights of men set forth in the laws of the twenty-one Republics. Reading in Spanish, Portuguese, French and English, the degradation of one's own sex, as reflected in the law, is an ordeal by fire not soon forgotten. With twenty-one volumes of discriminations under its arm, known defensively to those who worked on them as the Black Books because of the sins against women which they contained, the Commission went to the Montevideo Conference and recommended two treaties. One provided for equality in nationality. The other was the complete Equal Rights Treaty which had been presented at Havana five years before.

The Conference unanimously adopted the first. Only Venezuela failed to sign it. Henceforth, the law for the American Republics will give women the same right to be eccentric that men enjoy. Henceforth, women may marry outside the tribe if taste so dictates, and may beget their children outside the homeland, for whatever reason, without being punished, just as men have been able to do for a long time. Inequality was thus destroyed in

one very symbolic domain of law and life —nationality. A precedent for extending equality to women by international agreement was established, and in place of The Hague Convention based on inequality, an all-American one affirming equality, is now open to the world for adherence.

The other treaty delights my heart. It is a portent of a new world for men and women. Uruguay, Paraguay, Ecuador and Cuba signed this treaty, and, in doing so, pledged themselves to a standard which will have profound revolutionary consequences on the relationship of man and woman, the ultimate power in the world.

Compared to women's frustrations by The Hague and Geneva, Montevideo acted generously and history will say so. Now how did this happen? It is with regret that I am compelled by my fidelity to my belief, to tell you that the disaster motif was not absent here. Cuba, Uruguay and Ecuador had been violently shaken by the depression. Paraguay is fighting a war, as serious to it, as was the great war to Germany and Russia. Out of these catastrophes men were again receptive to the demand of women for justice. Similar motives made it easier for women to get the nationality treaty. All the nineteen nations which agreed to it had been, in greater or less degree, shaken out of their security by the depression.

If you still doubt my thesis, I will let the chief delegate of Venezuela, the only country present which did not sign the nationality treaty, speak for me. In a final interview when I asked him why he had not signed, he replied gravely, "My country is the only one here which is solvent. We have no social disturbances."

Is it necessary to sharpen the moral? We might go home and pray to an all-wise Providence to send us more chaos that we might more swiftly reach the end of the road to equality. But the imperishable love we bear you, makes us shrink from a future in which we make greater progress toward our rights, when you are overwhelmed with disaster. Is not contemplation of such a future tragic? How much more endearing it would be if you would welcome us as your peers in your moments of security. The friendliness you show us when you are in danger is not good enough.

You men of the Institute are the elect; you are aristocrats of American culture. Will you not covenant with us to hasten equality nationally and internationally? We beg you *not* to wait upon further disaster. Let us men and women, in mutual trust and love, together know abundant life, liberty and happiness before our short time upon earth is finished.

Married Persons and the Civil Service

MARRIED women in the Government service are scarcely any better off than were women in the formative days of the Common Law, declared Laura Anderson, a Government worker of Philadelphia, recently in addressing the Eastern Regional Conference of the Woman's Party in Atlantic City.

"In these days of codes and fair competition," sre pursued, "the word 'merit' is one of paramount importance. From the standpoint of Government workers, of whom I am one, merit is the sesame by which they secure their positions.

"The Civil Service, guardian of the Government workers' welfare, has made this possible by competitive examination, the medium of determining merit. So has the status of Civil Servants been for approximately fifty years.

"Lucille Foster McMillin, only woman member of the three on the United States Civil Service Commission, says, 'The word merit is one of the strongest words in our language today. Strict application of what it stands for would cure most human ills.' She says that 'the merit system should appeal strongly to women for it provides equal pay for equal work and equal opportunity based on worth alone.'

"The merit principle is to Civil Service what the unit is to any organization. There can be no great army unless the soldier accepts his personal responsibility. We can see that there can be no conquering army unless the individual gives his best. Mrs. McMillin further says, 'Appointments, promotions and dismissals on merit alone aim to promote individual responsibility and efficiency and therefore collective power.'

"Katherine Frederick, Secretary of the Department of Efficiency in Government and member of the National League of Women Voters, says that, 'when the economic life of the nation is drawn into close relationship with government, such as developed in 1933 in the United States, the spotlight is suddenly thrown upon the way in which Government service is rendered to the public.'

"In the early days of the Civil Service reform movement, its sponsors (all far-seeing leaders in our national and political life) sought to substitute tests of merit and ability as a method of appointment in the public service. One of their chief concerns became the correction of abuses in making the choice between male or female workers for the particular positions to be filled. They were successful in obtaining fairly equal treatment of the sexes so far as the needs of the position to be filled were concerned in relation to the nomination of a male or female incumbent.

"But, as we heard last evening about the changing of legislation almost as fast and furious as the styles of our clothes, a new order of things has attacked the married worker.

"In the war days, women displayed their loyalty to national duty quite like soldiers. They proved their efficiency in carrying on the various industries, from sewing tents and clothing, through the intricacies of food control and the conduct of business in private and governmental offices, down to the driving of rivets, if you please, in plants making munitions of war. And their potentiality as co-guardians and co-supporters of the family unit has steadily increased with the advance of post-war depression.

"This duty of supporting indigent members of their own or husbands' families has always been a necessary one for women. As soon as prosperity was on the wane, competitors sought the quickest ways to preserve jobs for themselves. One was to attack the system of merit in an insidious way, another was the adoption of the so-called 'married persons' clause.' This is a permanent feature of an otherwise temporary piece of national legislation, called the Economy Bill and passed in 1930. By this clause forever, until its removal from our statutes in Washington, a man and his wife are not permitted to work under the civil service at the same time if reductions should be necessary in either of their places of employment, notwithstanding the fact that no discrimination is effective in regard to other relationships existing in the same family, even where the individuals concerned work in the same office or department. Slight consideration is given to length of service (often a large slice of the period required for retirement) or to merit and efficiency. Needless to say, such separations have in most cases worked severe hardship in regard to maintaining the standard of living set up by Americans, and even in securing a bare subsistence for dependents.

"A survey of New York City dismissals under the Economy Act disclosed that eighty people had been supported by twenty-three who had lost their jobs. Therefore we must find a way to remove the vicious clause from our Civil Service practice. A bill, H. R. 9240, was introduced in Congress to repeal Section 213 of the Economy Act, and stands a good chance of remaining there. I cannot urge you too strongly to get this bill, H. R. 9240, out of committee and to work for its enactment.

"It is most important for us to bring about the best conditions for women in

our national laws in order that business vultures cannot use Section 213 as a precedent for the States to follow with legislation that will make inroads against women in private business.

"To conclude, let me remind you that the First Lady of our fair land, herself a business woman of the first class, expresses her belief that the time is near when women will enjoy complete equality with men. Let us use our best endeavors to hasten the day of complete freedom."

Mobilizing for the Equal Rights Amendment

By Helen Hunt West, Vice-Chairman Congressional Committee, National Woman's Party

ENCOURAGED and imbued with enthusiasm by the fact that the apparently impossible had been accomplished in the passage of the Equal Nationality Bill and the ratification of the Equal Nationality Treaty, the Congressional Committee of the National Woman's Party met recently in the headquarters of the Party in Washington for the purpose of planning the campaign for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

Maud Younger, Chairman of the Committee, presided, with Anita Pollitzer and Alice Paul present in an advisory capacity.

It was pointed out that the recent victories had brought about a great change in the attitude of members of Congress toward equality legislation generally and that the time appeared to be ripe for pressing the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment and the adoption of the Equal Rights Treaty.

Plans were made to so divide the country and organize working committees under the direction of the Congressional Committee that members could interview and obtain pledges of support from as many members of Congress as possible before Congress convenes, January 1.

The dividing of the country into sections, it was thought, with an organization to include a chairman in each Congressional District, would provide a small army of active workers concentrating on Congress for immediate action during the coming session.

In the closing days of the 73rd Congress, it developed that the chances of success were extremely good and it was thought that only a shortage of time prevented further progress in regard to the Amendment. It is a fact, however, that the attitude generally in Congress has changed from one of unwillingness to willingness to coöperate with proponents of the measure.

Pledges for support of the Amendment given Woman's Party members very recently by members of Congress, the wave of oppression of women in countries of Europe, which there is no assurance will not eventually extend to the United States if not forestalled, the agitation by the Department of Labor for a minimum wage for women, and discriminations against women in Federal service through discriminatory interpretations of Section 213 of the Economy Act relative to employment of married women, have all combined to galvanize into action women throughout the country in a determination to put over the Equal Rights Amendment during the coming session of Congress.

The Congressional Committee of the Woman's Party, convinced that concentration on the passage of the amendment by women throughout the United States, is all that is needed to put it across, is mobilizing for this great task, which, when completed, will give to women of this country complete equality with men under the law.

Present at the Washington meeting were representatives of the various States. Named to head special committees in connection with the campaign, which already is getting under way, were: Helen Hunt West of Florida, Vice-Chairman of the Congressional Committee and Chairman for the Southeastern District; Mrs. Max Rotter of Wisconsin, Second Vice-Chairman, Chairman for the Northern District of the Midwest; Anna T. Milburn of Washington, State Chairman for the Northwestern District; Alberta Gude Lynch of California, Chairman for the Southwestern District; Clara Snell Wolfe of Ohio, Chairman for the Central District; Mrs. Clarence Smith of New York, Chairman for the Northeastern District; Lois Buenzli of Pennsylvania, Chairman of Speakers' Bureau; Mary Mortenson of Wisconsin, Finance Chairman; Helen Haynes of North Carolina, in charge of card catalog; Anna T. Milburn, in charge of petition; Helena Hill Weed of Connecticut, and Anne Carter of Texas, research and literature.

Others taking an active part in the meeting of the committee were Laura Berrien, Georgia; Faith Binkley, Florida; Abbey Owen, Kentucky; Ethel Adamson, New York; Lady Willie Forbus, Washington State; Mary N. Willis, Indiana; Emma Shaw and Grace Brewer, representing the Government Workers' Council; and Eunice Dyson, Virginia.

Feminist Notes

Odds and Ends

By Hilda N. Dulac

"The woman always pays."

The woman pays — by starvation wages in good times.

The woman pays — by being the first laid off in bad times.

The woman pays—by always bearing the blame: *"Cherchez la femme."*

And this is an age that calls itself Christian and chivalrous.

When Hitler has all the German women thoroughly domesticated, what need will they have for higher education? How long will that financially embarrassed country consent to pay taxes for colleges and high schools for its budding nurses, cooks, seamstresses and scullery maids?

Queer is it not, that men invented a *goddess* of liberty when liberty is one of the last ideas they associated with women?

The statue of that mythical divinity on the Capitol at Washington was none too appropriate at the time it was erected.

But it is more suitable now when flesh and blood women are elevated to stations in the diplomatic corps and in the President's Cabinet.

Yet much remains before they can clasp hands, figuratively speaking, with the bronze goddess and call her "sister."

Madame Curie's career brings to mind an incident at what is now George Washington University.

In the days when most men deemed the female mind incapable of dealing with abstract propositions, a dainty little maiden, brown-eyed and curly-haired, the opposite, seemingly, of the then abhorred Susan B. Anthony, carried off from the eager hands of a group of male students the prize in higher mathematics.

What a to-do there was! Had she been homely or mannish—but to be downed in a superlatively masculine subject by the fair Rosalie Robinette — her very name breathed femininity—was just too much.

Men are used to such things now; but it's doubtful if they like them any better.

Brickbats and Bouquets

A READER sends us the following from Hot Springs, Arkansas:

The Woman's Party, it seems to me, is working from the wrong angle on the right of married women to work.

Why not use all its energy in working

for a law which would make every married man give his wife half the money and property they both together earn and save? Then married women would not need nor want to work outside the home. This would do more than any other law possibly could to make wives satisfied to be married, and willing to be real helpmates to their husbands.

How can any woman be happy for a husband who "hogs" all her life's earnings, and she knows, absolutely, that she never can have a dollar of her own as long as she stays married?

Most States have no law to make a husband give his wife even one dollar more than her board and keep, but still she is compelled to have children for him, cook his meals, wash, iron, scrub, and do the millions of hard tasks that a family demands, without ever any hope of pay.

It is high time that a husband was compelled, by law, to give his wife one-half of everything she helps him earn and save.

Women have been humble slaves of men just 1934 years too long.

Would men be satisfied to work all their lives and give their wives everything they earned? Never! Then how can they think that women are so much more unselfish that they could be?

Married women should not be working outside the home anyway, if the home is to be preserved, and the children properly taken care of. A hired servant cannot possibly take the interest in anyone's else children that the mother does, especially their moral and religious training. No, wives are needed in the home far more than in the factory. Leave that kind of work for the unmarried women and girls.

If a man cannot support his wife, she had better trade him for one who can. Little children need mothers, not servants, to train them in the right ways of life.

What would this world be, if most of our wives went outside the home to work? Then most of our wives would not have children, and it takes children to keep a country going, doesn't it?

Certainly, there are exceptions to every rule, and any wife who wants to work should be entitled to that privilege, but my point is this: That, if wives were paid a decent salary to work at home and really help their husbands, there would not be so many wives looking for work outside the home.

Any husband will gladly pay a cook when his wife is ill but, if the wife asked for half the salary the cook received, she would be told that she gets enough to eat and a place to sleep—"What else can you expect?"

Is there any justice in such slavery?

Press Comment

Humanity Mourns A Great Woman

Harold Ettlinger in Chicago Daily Tribune, July 5, 1934.

PARIS, July 4—Mme. Marie Curie, honored for 30 years as France's greatest woman, who died this morning in the little town of Passy in the French Alps, was the victim at least in part of her years of research in radium.

Famous throughout the world as the co-discoverer of radium with her late husband, Mme. Curie worked until the last on the dangerous metal. Her doctors admitted today that her inability to recover from an attack of pernicious anemia was probably due to the fact that her bone structure was weakened by years of exposure to radium and X-rays. She was 66 years of age.

After confinement in a Paris clinic for a few weeks, Mme. Curie was removed several days ago to a sanitarium in French Savoy, but the doctors who sped to her bedside from Paris were helpless in the face of a rapid decline. All they could do was to wait, along with her two daughters and a son-in-law, and early this morning convey the news of her death, first to the small group of Paris scientists with whom the famous woman worked constantly since the nineties, and then to the world at large.

The magnificent career of this Polish woman, who married Pierre Curie, young French scientist, in 1895, ended only with her last illness. She directed her radiological laboratory until forced to take to her bed a few weeks ago. Only recently this slender, austere figure, always dressed in black, gave her last lecture at the Sorbonne, where she was the first woman ever to occupy a chair on the faculty.

Today all France joined in mourning Mme. Curie, but in keeping with the simplicity of her life, she will be given a purely private funeral. She will be buried beside her husband, whose death in 1906 did not prevent her continuing the valuable work they had begun together.

A movement is gaining momentum to have the bodies of both the Curies placed beside those of Voltaire, Rousseau, and other great men of France in the Pantheon, which, incidentally, is only a few hundred feet from the research institute the Government built for the woman scientist after her husband's death.

"It is a great human figure which has disappeared," Prof. Jean Perrin, one of Mme. Curie's closest collaborators, thus characterized her death. Perrin, like many others, feels that her work will be directly carried on for her by her daughter, Irene, and her husband, Dr. F. Joliet, who has already gained considerable recognition in the scientific world, especially for breaking down the atom.

Object to Being Classed as Minors

Detroit Free Press, June 16, 1934.

A POLITICAL fight against the minimum wage law is promised by the National Woman's Party as a portion of its summer and fall activities. At its annual meeting Friday afternoon at the Women's City Club, the Michigan Branch of the Party organized a Congressional Committee for the purpose of pressing the passage of an Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution. Mrs. Walter M. Nelson heads the committee.

Miss Mary Brumfield of Royal Oak was elected president of the Michigan Branch for the coming year. Other officers include: First vice-chairman, Mrs. George T. Hendrie of Bloomfield Hills; second vice-chairman, May Ross of Lansing; third vice-chairman, Margaret Cameron; recording secretary, Olive Hurlburt; corresponding secretary, Jennie McKibben; treasurer, Selah Mullen; and directors, Mrs. George L. Grimes, Mrs. Nelson and Mrs. Emma A. Fox.

Anita Pollitzer of Washington, vice-chairman of the Party, was the guest of honor and speaker both at the afternoon session and at the dinner which followed. Miss Pollitzer arrived Tuesday from the recent Congressional battle, which finally resulted in the passing of the Equal Nationality Bill sponsored by the Woman's Party.

The organizations present included the Detroit Federation of Women's Clubs, the Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, the D. A. R., the Women Lawyers' Association, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Zonta Club, Soroptimists, and the District Nurses' Association.

Ohio Law Unfair to Women

The Columbus Dispatch, June 21, 1934.

OHIO'S minimum wage law to protect women in industry was branded "unfair to women" because it does not assume their equality with men, by Florence B. Hilles, Vice-Chairman of the National Woman's Party, Wednesday afternoon in the Faculty Club, Ohio State University, before the Columbus Branch of the Party.

Mrs. Hilles declared that a great deal of the protective legislation for women will have to be sacrificed in the interest of the Equal Rights Amendment.

The amendment, which calls for Equal Rights for men and women throughout the United States and territories under its jurisdiction, manifests the principal aim of the Party.

Regulation of industry should be based on the type of work done and not on the sex of the worker," Mrs. Hilles pointed out.

She advocated the federal amendment as a permanent guarantee of Equal Rights, State laws being subject to repeal with a change of administration.

The speaker was introduced by Mrs.

Valentine Winters, Dayton, State Chairman of the Party. Miss Mary Louise White was a guest of honor at the luncheon.

Brands Discrimination As "Medieval"

The Ohio State Journal, June 21, 1934.

ECONOMIC discrimination against women, once unquestioned, still a commonplace in spite of woman's political enfranchisement, is poor sportsmanship and bad business, Mrs. Florence Bayard Hilles, Wilmington, Del., vice chairman of the National Woman's Party, said yesterday afternoon before a luncheon meeting of the group at the Faculty Club.

The meeting was the first since the recent revival here of the organization once known as the Congressional Union for Woman's Suffrage and established in 1848.

Branding discrimination on the basis of sex as "medieval," Mrs. Hilles said:

"In the sports world a handicap is given the strong. In the economic world it goes to woman—the weak."

Recounting discriminations existing in many States, and the poor economy which results, Mrs. Hilles called attention to the Delaware law forbidding women to work at night, which, she said, deprived hundreds of women of employment.

Similarly, minimum wage laws governing women, Mrs. Hilles pointed out, more often than not have resulted in men "undercutting" women. A minimum wage law is useless, she declared, unless it applies to women and men alike.

The answer is not State law, she said, but an amendment to the Federal Constitution which will permanently assure all women Equal Rights under the law with men. Mrs. Valentine Winters, Dayton, State Chairman, presided.

Equal Rights Fight Pushed

The Detroit Press, June 16, 1934.

CONTINUATION of the fight for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, ratification by the Senate of the Equal Rights Treaty adopted recently by four nations at the Pan American Conference at Montevideo, and opposition to all labor legislation that puts women in a special class as regards hours, wages and sex-discrimination—these loom as the three outstanding measures to be advocated by the Michigan Branch of the National Woman's Party.

At the annual meeting Friday at the Women's City Club, delegates of the Michigan Branch endorsed a resolution asking President Roosevelt immediately to submit to the Senate for ratification the Lucretia Mott, or Equal Rights Amendment, which aims at establishment of complete equality of the sexes in political, economic and nationality rights and would automatically abolish all protective laws which apply to women only.

Another resolution endorsed by the delegate body will be sent to Secretary of Labor Perkins urging that she use her influence "to secure repeal of Section 213 of the Economy Act, which is working great hardship on married women in business."

Miss Mary Brumfield was elected president of the Michigan Branch at the business session preceding the dinner for Miss Anita Pollitzer, Vice-Chairman of the National Woman's Party, who made the address of the evening.

Mrs. George T. Hendrie is first vice-president, and Mrs. May Ross of Lansing and Mrs. Margaret Cameron of Detroit are second vice-presidents. Mrs. Jennie McKibben is corresponding secretary; Miss Olive Hurlburt, recording secretary; Mrs. Selah Mullen, treasurer. New directors include Mrs. Lucia V. Grimes, retiring president; Mrs. Rilla Nelson and Mrs. Emma A. Fox.

Formation of a congressional committee with a chairman in each of the 17 congressional districts of the State, for the purpose of pressing passage of the Lucretia Mott Amendment, was completed.

Other local organizations represented at the dinner, which was attended by about 200 guests, included both State and local branches of the Federation of Busines and Professional Women's Clubs, the State and local Federation of Women's Clubs; Women Lawyers' Association of Michigan; Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; D. A. R., Michigan State Nurses' Association and Zonta Clubs of Detroit and Highland Park.

News from the Field

University of Chile Offers Course to Women

ON THE twentieth of June the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that the University of Chile had inaugurated, by public sessions, a course of civic education to instruct women concerning the new situation which the right to vote in the next municipal elections gives them. Experienced politicians, public servants of great merit, and the most qualified university professors take part in this course of university extension which will prepare women to fulfill their electoral duties with judicious understanding.

News also comes from Chile that Marta Vergara, Representative from Chile on the Inter American Commission of Women and the colleague of the Commission at The Hague and Geneva, who was arrested for political activities, has been released.

Correction

IN the July 7 number of EQUAL RIGHTS the Delaware Federation of Women's Clubs was listed among organizations that had endorsed the draft of the Equal Nationality Treaty. Florence Bayard Hilles, First Vice-Chairman of the Party, informs us that this endorsement was made not by the Federation, but by the Business and Professional Women's Club of Wilmington.

Connecticut Plans State Meeting

A MEETING of the Connecticut Committee of the National Woman's Party was held recently at the home of Mrs. John J. White, State Chairman, at Westport, to further plans for an annual State meeting, and also to hasten the passage of the Lucretia Mott Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. Mrs. White presided and those attending were Helen Cooper, Jane Norman Smith, Helen Norman Smith and Claire M. Senie.

From the Pages of History

IN EQUAL RIGHTS of June 23, mention was made of a priceless old document, an "Appeal to the Women of New York," dated November, 1860, and bearing the signatures of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony and other suffrage pioneers, which had been turned over to the New York City Committee of the National Woman's Party.

Jane Norman Smith of New York, a member of the National Council, writes to say that the paper was sent to the New York office of Stephen Pell, and that it will be kept in the archives of the New York City Committee.

The Feminist Vote in Cuban Elections

WIDESPREAD press comment throughout Hispanic America on the part which women will play in the forthcoming Cuban elections indicates the interest with which the result is awaited. According to the most recent census—which, however, was extra-official—there are 789,000 women voters in a total of 1,655,500. This is the first time that Cuban women will exercise the right of suffrage; and they are preparing to go to the polls with the same resolution and high valor which they have shown during the dark days of revolution.

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